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Section 1.0

Overview

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Section 1.0: Introduction

Section 1.1: Overview

This document provides a consolidated overall budget for the Everglades restoration efforts in south Florida with information provided by both Federal and non-Federal agencies. It is compiled and prepared by the Department of the Interior's, Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives (OERI) on an annual basis and includes a summary accounting of all funds in the FY 15 Budget Requests for participating Federal and State agencies. It also includes a summary of all funds expended on Everglades restoration efforts since FY 2002. Expended restoration funding information for FY 2000 and FY 2001 is also available on our website: www.evergladesrestoration.gov.

The information in this document is reported annually to OERI by the members of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (Task Force) and Working Group. The document consists of three sections. Section 1.0 provides an overview and includes summary tables for the federal and state budget requests.

Section 2.0 provides detailed information concerning the federal Everglades Ecosystem restoration projects and funding. Section 2.1 addresses the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) projects and funding and Section 2.2 addresses non-CERP projects and funding. The base program and operational funding requests not specifically designated for restoration for some federal agencies are not included in the document.

Section 3.0 provides the detailed information concerning State of Florida Everglades Ecosystem restoration projects and funding. Section 3.1 addresses CERP projects and funding, and Section 3.2 addresses non-CERP projects and funding. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2015/2016 totals shown represent estimates for the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). The FY 2015/2016 actual budget totals for SFWMD will be posted on the Task Force website: www.sfrestore.org when the final budget is approved by their Governing Board.

Section 1.2: Federal and State of Florida Funding Summary Tables

The following tables provide a summary of the detailed funding information found in Sections 2.0 and 3.0 of this document. Table 1 includes budget information provided by federal members and Table 2 includes budget information provided by the State of Florida members.

The funding for the federal agencies and the SFWMD reflects a fiscal year that begins on October 1 and ends on September 30 of each year. The funding for other state agencies reflects a fiscal year that starts on July 1 and ends on June 30 of each year.

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TABLE 1: FEDERAL FUNDING SUMMARY (ACTUAL \$)

EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS	FY 2001 Enacted	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Enacted	FY 2004 Enacted	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Enacted	FY 2009 Enacted	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Enacted	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Requested
COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PROGRAM (CERP)																
USACE - CERP (Part of Central and Southern Florida) ^{1,3,4,12,13}	21,747,000	27,961,000	37,062,000	39,063,000	64,446,000	62,610,000 ²	64,000,000	64,000,000	83,640,000	119,966,000	117,525,000	57,886,000	75,902,240	35,217,178	61,001,000	86,115,000
USACE - CERP (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,100,000	86,796,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
USACE - CERP O&M ¹	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	330,000	309,744	425,000	1,538,000	1,491,000
USDOJ - NPS CERP ¹⁰	2,497,000	5,544,000	5,513,000	5,463,000	5,213,000	5,174,000	5,216,000	5,132,000	5,108,000	5,198,000	5,150,000	5,101,000	4,854,000	5,130,000	5,162,000	5,215,000
USDOJ - FWS CERP	651,000	3,351,000	3,329,000	3,309,000	3,304,000	3,269,000	2,595,000	3,251,000	3,251,000	3,251,000	3,251,000	3,246,000	3,029,000	3,246,000	3,246,000	3,246,000
NON-COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PROGRAM (CERP)																
USACE - Central and Southern Florida (excluding CERP) ^{1,3,4}	56,182,000	64,949,000	49,983,000	64,906,000	8,029,000	9,126,000	6,447,000	14,505,000	9,075,000	10,600,000	34,805,000	35,986,000	12,800,000	8,800,000	7,550,000	20,663,000
USACE - Non-CERP O&M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	590,000	731,000	1,278,000	1,075,000	4,842,000	6,995,527	6,844,555	4,039,000	5,690,000
USACE - Non-CERP American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,516,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
USACE - Critical Projects ^{3,4}	20,485,000	19,876,000	19,526,000	14,760,000	25,813,000	11,880,000	8,289,000	8,156,000	3,472,000	2,725,000	5,170,000	3,000,000	0	0	0	0
USACE - Kissimmee River Restoration ^{3,4}	19,961,000	25,846,000	23,727,000	17,616,000	17,871,000	13,042,000	50,264,000	30,968,000	28,361,000	44,673,000	6,986,000	45,614,000	0	0	0	16,964,000
USACE - Biscayne Bay ³	543,000	240,000	200,000	0	74,000	0	0	0	239,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
USACE - Modified Water Deliveries ⁴	0	0	0	0	0	34,650,000	35,000,000	9,840,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
USDA - ARS	4,193,000	4,846,900	5,216,800	5,415,100	6,101,000	4,908,600	4,941,000	4,754,500	4,764,700	4,865,000	4,797,600	4,660,300	3,443,300	2,989,000	2,989,000	2,989,000
USDA - NRCS	5,297,000	37,752,000	21,376,000	23,580,000	62,539,337 ⁵	61,505,271 ⁵	5,143,335	13,240,175	61,017,879	154,409,000	111,522,600	83,463,776	65,438,569	15,463,985	14,000,000	TBD ¹⁴
US Department of Commerce - NOAA	4,264,000	4,065,000	4,065,000	4,359,000	4,389,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	1,910,000	1,648,778	724,716	418,000	307,242	357,242	307,424
USDOJ - NPS Park Management	23,389,000	23,635,000	23,874,000	23,991,000	25,266,000	25,832,000	26,377,000	28,481,000	29,852,000	31,400,000	30,110,000	29,611,000	27,827,000	29,314,000	29,624,000	30,302,000
USDOJ - South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force	1,316,000	1,325,000	1,320,000	1,308,000	1,290,000	1,286,000	1,307,000	1,303,000	1,303,000	1,320,000	1,317,000	1,303,000	1,234,000	1,311,000	1,316,000	1,325,000
USDOJ-NPS Park Management Transfer ⁹	0	0	0	9,924,000	702,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
USDOJ - NPS Everglades Research (Critical Ecosystem Studies Initiative)	6,194,000	4,000,000	3,974,000	3,937,000	3,882,000	3,840,000	3,864,000	3,849,000	3,849,000	3,873,000	3,865,000	3,822,000	3,620,000	3,845,000	3,855,000	3,871,000

EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS	FY 2001 Enacted	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Enacted	FY 2004 Enacted	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Enacted	FY 2009 Enacted	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Enacted	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Requested
USDOJ - NPS Modified Water Deliveries	8,980,000	19,199,000 ⁶	9,935,000	12,830,000	7,965,000	24,962,000 ⁷	12,981,000	14,299,000	60,000,000	8,400,000	8,000,000	7,987,000	8,000,000	0	0	0
USDOJ - NPS Big Cypress Sustainable Trail System	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,552,000	2,669,000	0	0	0	0
USDOJ - NPS Tamiami Trail Bridging	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,500,000	0	0
USDOJ - NPS American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15,873,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
USDOJ - NPS Federal Land Acquisition Projects	0	16,000,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30,511,000	0	0	0	0
USDOJ - NPS Land Acquisition (management)	2,075,000	2,800,000	2,782,000	1,800,000	1,500,000	690,000	500,000	750,000	730,000	775,000	775,000	634,000	685,000	665,000	668,000	670,000
USDOJ - NPS Land Acquisition Grants to Florida	11,974,000	15,000,000	14,924,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
USDOJ- Transfer of NPS Federal Land Acquisition	0	0	0	0	0	(17,000,000) ⁷	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
USDOJ- Transfer of NPS Land Acquisition Grants to the State of Florida	0	0	0	(14,924,000)	(702,000)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
USDOJ - FWS Ecological Services	2,554,000	2,554,000	2,537,000	2,523,000	2,518,000	2,516,000	2,521,000	2,475,000	2,475,000	2,475,000	2,475,000	2,913,000	2,718,000	2,718,000	2,718,000	2,718,000
USDOJ - FWS Refuges and Wildlife	3,706,000	3,706,000	3,682,000	9,784,000	4,109,000	4,086,000	4,086,000	4,022,000	4,022,000	4,022,000	4,022,000	4,016,000	3,747,000	4,016,000	4,016,000	4,016,000
USDOJ - FWS Migratory Birds	0	0	0	0	102,000	101,000	101,000	99,000	99,000	99,000	99,000	99,000	99,000	92,000	92,000	92,000
USDOJ - FWS Law Enforcement	636,000	636,000	632,000	628,000	619,000	619,000	619,000	609,000	609,000	609,000	609,000	608,000	568,000	608,000	568,000	568,000
USDOJ - FWS Fisheries	100,000	100,000	99,000	98,000	95,000	95,000	95,000	92,000	92,000	92,000	92,000	92,000	86,000	92,000	92,000	92,000
USDOJ - FWS American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,173,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
USDOJ - FWS Land Acquisition ¹¹	10,975,000	8,500,000	2,500,000	0	1,441,000	0	0	1,028,000	0	0	0	1,500,000	3,000,000	5,000,000	3,000,000	4,591,000
USDOJ - USGS - Integrated Research, Planning and Interagency Coordination	8,553,000	8,636,000	7,847,000	7,847,000	7,738,000	7,771,000	6,900,000	6,800,000	6,907,000	6,907,000	6,893,000	6,882,000	6,525,000	6,525,000	7,525,000	7,525,000
USDOJ - BIA	396,000	396,000	393,000	539,000	536,000	382,000	382,000	390,000	390,000	390,000	390,000	390,000	370,000	390,000	390,000	390,000
US EPA	4,582,000	4,666,800	3,352,100	3,139,600	2,882,300	3,439,400	3,683,000	2,009,000	2,161,000	2,168,000	1,653,000	2,058,000	1,646,000	1,356,000	1,418,000	1,340,000

TABLE 2: FEDERAL FUNDING SUMMARY (ACTUAL \$)

	FY 2001 Enacted	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Enacted	FY 2004 Enacted	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Enacted	FY 2009 Enacted	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Enacted	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Requested
CERP Total (USACE and USDOJ)	24,895,000	36,856,000	45,904,000	47,835,000	72,963,000	71,053,000	71,811,000	72,383,000	93,099,000	215,211,000	125,926,000	66,563,000	84,094,984	44,018,178	70,947,000	96,067,000
Non-CERP Subtotal (USACE and USDOJ)	178,019,000	217,398,000	167,935,000	157,567,000	108,848,000	123,878,000	159,733,000	128,256,000	170,252,000	127,154,000	110,235,000	182,479,000	78,267,527	77,720,555	65,453,000	99,477,000
Non-CERP Subtotal (Other Federal Agencies)	18,336,000	51,330,700	34,009,900	36,493,700	75,911,637	72,853,271	16,767,335	23,003,675	70,943,579	163,352,000	119,621,978	90,906,792	70,945,869	20,116,227	18,494,242	4,636,424
Non-CERP Total (All Federal Agencies)	196,355,000	268,728,700	201,944,900	194,060,700	184,759,637	196,731,271	176,500,335	151,259,675	241,195,579	290,506,000	229,856,978	273,375,792	149,213,396	97,836,782	83,947,242	104,113,424
TOTAL CERP AND NON-CERP (USACE AND USDOJ)	202,914,000	254,254,000	213,839,000	205,402,000	181,811,000	194,931,000	231,544,000	200,639,000	263,351,000	342,365,000	236,161,000	249,042,000	162,362,511	121,738,733	136,400,000	195,544,000
TOTAL CERP AND NON-CERP (ALL FEDERAL AGENCIES)	221,250,000	305,584,700	247,848,900	241,895,700	257,722,637	267,784,271	248,311,335	223,642,675	334,294,579	505,717,000	356,782,978	339,948,792	233,308,380	141,854,960	154,894,242	200,180,424

Note: Base program and operational funding requests for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are not included in the information provided within this Cross-Cut Budget Working Document.

Footnotes:

¹ USACE CERP activities are part of the Central and Southern Florida Project (C&SF), but are presented separately from other C&SF activities.

² USACE FY 2006 Enacted reflects reductions for rescission and congressionally directed funding for the C&SF Upper St. Johns River project.

³ Enacted numbers for USACE reflect reductions for any rescissions, but do not account for reductions due to savings and slippage. FY 2013 numbers reflect approved work allowances.

⁴ Beginning with the FY 2006 Budget Request these projects are now included as part of one Corps of Engineers line item referred to as the "South Florida Everglades Ecosystem Restoration" Program.

⁵ Enacted numbers for FY 2005 and FY 2006 reflect additional Emergency Watershed Protection Program funding due to hurricanes.

⁶ Modified Water Deliveries project funding for this year was \$35,199,000, reflecting \$19,199,000 for construction and \$16,000,000 for land acquisition.

⁷ Includes the transfer of \$17 million in unobligated balances from the USDOJ- NPS Federal Land Acquisition to NPS Construction to further the Modified Water Deliveries project.

⁸ In 2004 \$5,000,000 in prior year balances from this line was transferred to the USDOJ - FWS Resource Management Account, and \$9,924,000 to the USDOJ - NPS Park Management Transfer line. In 2005, \$702,000 was transferred from prior year balances from this line to the USDOJ - NPS Park Management Transfer line.

⁹ Of the funds appropriated for USDOJ - NPS Land Acquisition Grants to the State of Florida, the follow amounts are reflected within the total appropriated to NPS: in 2002 \$8,796,000 was used in support of the Modified Water Deliveries project; in 2004 \$10,000,000 used in support of the Modified Water Deliveries project, and \$17,291,000 was reprogrammed for other NPS and FWS Everglades related activities; and in 2005 \$1,083,000 was transferred to the FWS Resource Management account for Everglades activities.

¹⁰ NPS CERP funding includes GSA space rental costs in the following amounts: FY 2004 - \$741,000; FY 2005 - \$556,000; FY 2006 - \$554,000; FY 2007 - \$554,000; FY 2008 - \$475,000; FY 2009 - \$409,000; FY 2010 - \$409,000; FY 2011 - \$409,000; FY 2012 - \$410,000; FY 2013 - \$410,000; FY 2014 - \$410,000 - FY 2015 - \$410,000; FY 2016 - \$410,000

¹¹ Enacted number for 2012 reflects a reprogramming within the FWS land acquisition account for acquisition at the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area.

¹² USACE FY 2014 enacted reflects reduction for the C&SF Upper St Johns River Project.

¹³ USACE FY 2015 requested reflects reduction for the C&SF Upper St Johns River Project.

¹⁴ FY2016 program funding is pending national approval of annual allocations to States. The table will be updated as appropriate when data is available.

TABLE 3: STATE OF FLORIDA FUNDING SUMMARY TABLE (ACTUAL \$)

EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS	FY 2001-02 Enacted	FY 2002-03 Enacted	FY 2003-04 Enacted	FY 2004-05 Enacted	FY 2005-06 Enacted	FY 2006-07 Enacted	2007-08 Enacted	2008-09 Enacted	2009-10 Enacted	2010-11 Enacted	2011-12 Enacted	FY 2012-13 Enacted	FY 2013-14 Enacted	FY 2014-2015 Enacted	FY 2015-2016 Requested
COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PROGRAM (CERP)															
Florida Department of Environmental Protection	90,380,949	150,279,126	105,586,702	128,972,634	128,637,628	136,615,473	102,093,964	57,205,964	48,590,234	51,808,839	31,006,243	28,527,828	73,164,611	61,336,618	90,000,000
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	411,000	409,000	419,000	336,359	336,359	0	0	4,465,301	2,722,651	1,496,946	1,640,302	1,187,999	2,001,704	1,732,157	2,151,735
South Florida Water Management District	91,708,816 ¹	133,284,645 ¹	107,887,469 ¹	101,119,569 ¹	253,715,473 ¹	507,930,226 ¹	411,690,864 ¹	114,260,439 ¹	106,295,718 ¹	227,062,828 ²	52,664,416 ²	66,537,245 ²	56,117,416 ¹	52,836,197 ¹	46,757,302 ¹
NON- COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PROGRAM (CERP)															
Florida Department of Agriculture/Consumer Services	7,608,917	15,523,202	16,215,100	8,531,378	5,132,269	6,928,051 ³	6,000,000 ³	3,000,000 ³	3,000,000 ³	3,000,000 ³	3,000,000 ³	3,000,000 ³	3,000,000 ³	3,000,000 ³	5,000,000 ³
Florida Department of Community Affairs	15,314,720	51,580,680	29,781,074	31,349,633	23,340,316	24,252,571	24,499,270	31,616,692	TBD ⁴	TBD ⁴	0 ⁴	0 ⁴	0 ⁴		
Florida Department of Environmental Protection	72,654,344	109,393,692	92,364,834	102,222,540	176,467,770	408,365,782	203,236,072	78,118,780	47,179,935	21,058,307	24,901,512	29,750,012	63,080,365	82,993,974	66,000,000
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	19,681,000	21,306,000	25,729,000	27,466,653	27,579,153	27,579,153	28,682,319	4,714,329	54,582,358	43,409,812	55,075,189	57,355,349	40,209,004	48,216,417	50,832,728
Florida Department of Transportation	4,931,000	10,528,832	1,940,300	7,905,314	5,400,000	14,375,043	9,453,057	9,766,285	18,004,018	5,812,246	20,173,349	11,619,604	19,963,236	17,656,798	15,601,425
South Florida Water Management District	395,314,127 ¹	372,701,387 ¹	381,868,047 ¹	299,820,508 ¹	316,312,557 ¹	478,050,397 ¹	420,993,975 ¹	675,800,502 ¹	1,113,120,018 ¹	604,593,758 ²	400,452,489	366,512,069	415,873,861 ¹	418,794,193 ¹	429,474,898 ¹
CERP SUBTOTAL:	182,500,765	283,972,771	213,893,171	230,428,562	382,689,460	644,595,699	513,784,828	175,931,704	157,608,603	280,368,613	85,310,962	96,263,072	131,283,731	115,904,972	138,909,037
NON-CERP SUBTOTAL:	515,504,108	581,033,793	547,898,355	477,296,026	554,232,065	959,550,997	692,864,693	803,016,588	1,235,886,329	677,874,123	503,602,539	468,237,034	542,126,466	570,661,382	566,909,051
STATE OF FLORIDA FUNDING TOTAL:	698,004,873	865,006,564	761,791,526	707,724,588	936,921,525	1,604,146,696	1,206,649,521	978,948,292	1,393,494,932	958,242,736	588,913,500	564,500,106	673,410,197	686,566,354	705,818,088

Footnotes:

¹ Reflects SFVWMD adopted budget appropriations less any state and federal funds.

² Reflects SFVWMD adopted budget appropriations less any River of Grass project funds which are accounted for in the Non-CERP Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Projects category.

³ The number reflected does not include Forestry's contribution for FY 2006-07, FY 2007-08, FY 2008-09, FY 2009-10, and FY 2010-11. FY 2011-12, FY 2012-13, FY 2013-14, FY 2014-15 and FY 2015-16.

⁴ Senate Bill 2156 (Chapter 2011-142, Laws of Florida) downsized Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA). As a result, we will no longer be reporting DCA's budget information.

Section 2.0

Federal Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Projects and Funding

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Section 2.1: Federal Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Projects and Funding (\$96,067,000)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Construction (\$86,115,000)

Congress authorized the CERP in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2000. The objective of the program is to restore, protect, and preserve water resources in central and southern Florida, including the Everglades. The CERP includes numerous projects that work together to achieve the plan's restoration goals. WRDA 2000 requires the completion of Project Implementation Reports (PIRs) for these projects. The PIRs provide further information on plan formulation and evaluation, engineering and design, estimated benefits and costs, and environmental effects of planned restoration activities. The PIRs serve to bridge the gap between the conceptual level of detail contained in the CERP and the detailed design plans and specifications required to proceed with construction. Congress authorized three projects in WRDA 2007; Indian River Lagoon South, Picayune Strand Restoration, and the Site 1 Impoundment projects. An additional project, the Melaleuca Eradication Facility, was authorized for construction in accordance with the Programmatic authority provision of WRDA 2000. The Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 authorized four additional CERP projects; The Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage, the C-111 Western Spreader Canal, the Broward County Water Preserve Area, and the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetland projects.

From a project perspective, the major focus of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE or Corps) FY 2016 activities includes continuing construction on the Picayune Strand Project and the Indian River Lagoon South project features at C-44; completion of construction of the Site 1 Impoundment Phase 1; initiation of design on the Broward County Water Preserve Areas, C-43 Caloosahatchee Reservoir, and Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands projects; and continuation of project adaptive assessment and monitoring activities used to monitor the effects of projects as they are implemented. The Corps will also execute a Project Partnership Agreement with South Florida Water Management District to recognize the construction work they previously completed on the C-111 Western Spreader Canal Project.

From a program perspective, FY 2016 CERP activities focus include continuation of Restoration Coordination and Verification (RECOVER), an inter-agency scientific group charged with system-wide assessments of planned and completed projects as well as with programmatic level activities. RECOVER's science-based activities include evaluation and assessment on the performance of the CERP, review of the effects that other restoration projects may have on CERP, and provision of a system-wide perspective throughout the restoration process. Other program level activities include continued reassessment of project sequencing to optimize delivery of benefits as contained in the Integrated Delivery Schedule.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers CERP Operations & Maintenance (\$1,491,000)

The WRDA 2000 authorized the cost of operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation (OMRR&R) of CERP projects be cost shared 50/50 between the USACE and the non-federal sponsor. The FY 2016 Operation and Maintenance (O&M) activities includes reimbursement to the non-federal sponsor (subject to availability of federal funds) for Picayune Strand Merritt and Faka Union pump stations, Melaleuca Eradication Facility, Site 1 Impoundment Phase 1, and the Indian River Lagoon South C-44 costs related to OMRR&R. The Picayune Strand pump stations, in conjunction with the spreader canals, will be used to restore the former wetlands to the south while maintaining the level of flood protection to the north. The O&M activities for the Melaleuca Eradication and Other Exotic Plants project includes the purposeful introduction of natural enemies (biocontrols) to weaken and suppress invading plants in the South Florida Ecosystem and Everglades. The rearing, releasing, and monitoring of exotic plant biocontrols during the O&M phase will facilitate the restoration, preservation, and protection of the South Florida Ecosystem. By managing invasive exotic plant species and strengthening the ability of native plant species to survive, improvements will be provided to the degraded natural habitat. The O&M activities for the IRLS C-44 include operation of the Troupe Indiantown Intake Canal.

U.S. Department of the Interior - National Park Service (\$5,215,000)

The CERP is a multi-decadal framework and guide to restore, protect, and preserve the water resources of central and southern Florida. Projects affecting NPS lands and waters occur in phases through the end of CERP implementation. The NPS works with the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to support CERP projects through the development of restoration performance measures and quantitative evaluations of the environmental benefits of proposed actions.

CERP projects will have significant effects on Big Cypress National Preserve (BCNP), Biscayne National Park (NP), and Everglades NP. The NPS continues to concentrate on projects that are essential to the restoration of Federal lands in south Florida. The NPS actively participates in the planning for such projects including the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP), seepage management in the L-30/L-31N Canals, phase 1 of the C-111 Spreader Canal project, Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands, C-43 West Basin Reservoir, Broward County Water Preserve Areas, and the Loxahatchee River Restoration PIR. CERP funding also supports work to implement project operations and assess the effects of these projects as well as the foundation projects, as successful implementation of these foundation projects is required for the CERP plan to achieve significant restoration benefits.

To support these project-level activities, the NPS, in cooperation with other Federal, State, and local partners, is implementing a Monitoring and Assessment Plan for CERP, which will provide the information to determine the ecological effects and overall restoration success of CERP projects. Additionally, the NPS will continue to participate in RECOVER, the interagency group responsible for science input to the CERP.

Finally, the NPS will continue to participate in the Department of the Interior's (DOI) formal

requirements on programmatic activities including: updates to the CERP Programmatic Regulations; guidance memoranda to formalize how CERP projects will be built, operated, and evaluated; interim goals that will be used to track restoration progress and provide five-year status reports to Congress; and the identification of the appropriate quantity, timing, and distribution of water that will be produced, and pursuant to Federal and State law, dedicated and managed for the natural system.

The CERP planned activities for FY 2016 include:

- For Federal projects, the program would continue to represent the NPS on technical issues related to CERP system-wide monitoring, interim goals, and programmatic guidance. For Florida state projects, the program would continue to represent the NPS on issues relating to the establishment of water reservations, minimum flows and levels, water supply planning, as well as water quality and contaminants.
- The program would focus closely in FY 2016 on technical support to the revised U.S. Army Corps of Engineers process for restoration of the central Everglades (CEPP).
- For the Modified Water Deliveries project, the program would focus on providing technical support to tracking the results of experimental field tests, and to the development of water operations that utilize project infrastructure to improve natural resource conditions in Everglades NP. Technical support would be provided for the remaining items required for full implementation of the project, including land acquisition and water operations. Staff would also manage a modified monitoring program to assess the effects of the constructed Modified Water Deliveries project on NPS lands and resources.
- The program will continue to provide technical support toward completion of the general design phase for the CEPP, including synthesis of information for upper management toward the goal of project authorization.
- The program would continue to provide analysis and technical support to water operations that affect Biscayne NP, and would participate in tracking the progress toward completion of components of this project.
- The program would participate in planning efforts, track project progress, and provide environmental analyses of impacts on NPS resources for additional large scale projects that affect NPS resources and link with restoration projects (for example, the planned nuclear plant expansion and transmission corridor of the Florida Power and Light Company).
- The program would track water quality issues that directly affect the implementation of Everglades Restoration projects, including the functioning of the storm-water treatment areas that are part of the State's Everglades Construction Project.
- The program would continue to provide technical support to DOI and Department of Justice processes that pertain to the quality of water entering the Everglades.
- The program would track and provide technical analysis and briefings on the detailed design and implementation of the Restoration Strategies Agreement signed in June 2012 between the State of Florida and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (a result of the Amended Water Quality determination issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2010).

For more information, please see: <http://www.nps.gov/ever/naturescience/cerp.htm>

U.S. Department of the Interior - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (\$3,246,000)

The FY 2016 request for CERP implementation will support approximately 30 full-time employees that actively serve on planning teams for all CERP and non-CERP restoration projects being conducted by the Corps. This will enable the FWS to fulfill its Trust Resource responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), and other statutes as well as the CERP Programmatic Regulations as part of the restoration effort. The FWS is an integral planning partner in formulating alternatives, designing, assessing and monitoring, and adaptively managing CERP project components during its implementation. The FWS is responsible for providing environmental expertise to the Corps and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). The FWS also is involved in guiding Everglades restoration at a system-wide scale through the following activities: biannual system status reports, participation in RECOVER activities, River of Grass Initiative, and System Operating Manual.

In FY 2016, the FWS will participate in the development and execution of the following projects: Central Everglades Planning Project, Kissimmee River Restoration, Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Modified Water Control Plan, C-43 Reservoir, Indian River Lagoon, Picayune Strand Restoration Project, Herbert Hoover Dike Rehabilitation, and other major restoration projects. These activities will include assistance in plan formulation and ecological benefit analysis, ESA Section 7 consultation, recovery plan implementation, monitoring and adaptive management, restoration and management activities on DOI lands, CERP project planning, preparation of Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Reports, system-wide water quality improvement, land acquisition, migratory bird and fisheries conservation, and a myriad of multi-agency planning, science, and outreach efforts. As a recognized leader in the science of ecosystem restoration, the FWS participates as the biological and ecological expert and is an integral planning and implementation partner in the CERP to ensure that ecosystem benefits are maximized consistent with long-term CERP project goals. The FWS will design features and project components that maximize natural resource benefits through active participation throughout the restoration planning process.

For more information, please see:

<http://www.fws.gov/verobeach/EvergladesRestoration.html>

Section 2.2: Federal Non-CERP Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Projects and Funding (\$104,113,424)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Construction (\$37,627,000)

Central and Southern Florida Project (\$20,663,000)

NOTE: The \$37,627,000 indicated above does not reflect \$86,115,000 in funding requested for CERP projects, which is reported in Section 2.1.

South Dade County, C-111 Project(\$19,663,000)

This project consists of modifications to the C&SF Project to provide more natural hydrologic conditions in Taylor Slough and to minimize damaging flood releases to Barnes Sound/Manatee Bay, while maintaining flood protection for adjacent agricultural lands. The FY 2016 activities include continuing construction of the North Detention Area and initiation of construction on the L-31W Partial Canal Backfill.

West Palm Beach Canal, Canal-51/Stormwater Treatment Area 1 East Project(\$1,000,000)

This project consists of design and construction of the C-51/STA 1E project to provide flood control for the western C-51 basin, provide water quality enhancement, and restore a portion of the historic Everglades flows. FY 2016 activities include completing construction on the culvert repairs at STA 1E.

Kissimmee River Restoration (\$16,964,000)

This project involves restoring the historic habitat in much of the Kissimmee River floodplain and restoring water-level fluctuations and seasonal discharges from Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress, and Hatchineha in the upper basin. The FY 2016 activities include initiation of the construction on the Reach 2 and Reach 3 Backfills.

Modified Water Deliveries (MWD) to Everglades National Park

The MWD project involves construction of modifications to the C&SF Project water management system and related operational changes to provide improved water deliveries to ENP. The project consists of structural features with the intended purpose of restoring conveyance between WCAs north of ENP and the Shark River Slough within the park. It will also provide flood mitigation to the 8.5 Square Mile Area, a residential area adjacent to the park expansion boundary in the East Everglades. The FY 2016 activities include continuation of operational testing to optimize water management operations, which will ultimately be needed in the development of a final operational plan.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Non-CERP Operations & Maintenance (\$5,690,000)

This operations and maintenance work consists of two parts. The first is the annual water management operations work performed by the Corps at federally operated structures located

primarily around Lake Okeechobee and the Water Conservation Areas. The second part is the federal cost share of work performed by the non-federal sponsor at other facilities listed below.

Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Project (\$3,078,000)

Manatee Pass Gates

The Manatee Pass Gates project is located in southeast Florida at selected Okeechobee Waterway and C&SF Project navigation locks and water control structures. These locks and water control structures are located in areas that are within West Indian Manatee (a federally-listed endangered species) habitat. The Manatee Pass Gates, which are federally operated and maintained, use a set of acoustic transmitters and receivers to prevent the gates from closing and harming these protected animals. FY 2016 funding would be used for maintenance of these structures.

C-111 South Dade

Operations of the C-111 South Dade project will maintain existing flood protection, minimize damaging freshwater discharges, and restore more natural hydrologic conditions to ENP. The USACE provides 60 percent of the O&M funding required for the annual pumping, including fuel, lubricants, proportional depreciation and repairs, and operating labor. FY 2016 activities include maintenance and operation of the pump stations 332B, 332C, and 332D.

Everglades and South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (Critical Projects) Seminole Big Cypress (\$670,000)

The project includes basins that may include irrigation storage cells, water resource areas (similar in function to a Stormwater Treatment Area or STA), a stormwater cell, pump stations for transferring water, canals for distribution, and inverted siphons to carry effluent under the West Feeder Canal into the Reservation's Native Range. The USACE provides 50 percent of the funding required for the annual OMRR&R requirements associated with the Seminole Big Cypress project. FY 2016 activities include maintenance and operation of Basins 1 and 4 project features.

Modified Waters Delivery (\$1,942,000)

The purpose of the project's structural features is to improve the conveyance of water between Water Conservation Areas north of ENP and the Shark River Slough within the park and to provide flood mitigation to the 8.5 Square Mile Area. The USACE provides 75 percent of funding for OMRR&R of project components. FY 2016 activities include maintenance and operation of pump stations 357 & 331, spillway 355A & B, stream gauging, and seepage control for the 8.5 square mile portion of the project.

U.S. Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Research Service (\$2,989,000)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Research Service (ARS) conducts an integrated research program that addresses the needs of agriculture and complements the CERP. The goal of the research is to develop and transfer improved scientific technologies and enhanced management strategies that control invasive exotic species and assure the continued economic integrity of agriculture. Two major areas of research support south Florida restoration and agriculture: improved crop production systems and biological control of invasive species. Individual projects supporting these priority areas are as follows:

Improved Crop Production Systems

- Soil Conservation for Sustainable Sugarcane Production (\$362,900). The Sugarcane Field Station in Canal Point, Florida, develops high-yielding, disease-resistant sugarcane cultivars for both organic (muck) and sand soils. Recently, a cultivar development program was initiated targeted toward the optimization of sugarcane production on sandy soils, as sugarcane in Florida is expanding to these soils. In 2014, one cultivar, CP 06-2042, is released that suitable for both soil types and another cultivar, CP 07-2137, for sand soil only. Improved knowledge of the physiologic, morphologic, and agronomic responses of sugarcane genotypes to sand soils and shallow muck as well as the deeper muck soil will help improve adaptation, yields, and selection for these conditions. Research on resistance to economically limiting diseases has received increased emphasis because of the impact of brown and orange rust diseases. Disease resistance is currently being incorporated into new cultivars being developed.

Biological Control of Invasive Species

- Development and Evaluation of Biological Control Agents for Invasive Species Threatening the Everglades and other Natural and Managed Systems (\$2,626,100). The ARS Invasive Plant Research Laboratory (IPRL) in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and its satellite lab in Gainesville, Florida, conduct research to (1) identify and collect natural enemies for control of melaleuca, Brazilian pepper, old world climbing fern, downy rose myrtle, Chinese tallow, air potato, waterhyacinth, waterlettuce, and other invasive pest plants; (2) evaluate biological control agents for release against invasive weed and insect species in a risk analysis context; (3) obtain approval for release of host specific natural enemies; (4) mass-rear and distribute approved agents on natural area weeds, (5) evaluate individual and community level impacts of established agents on weed targets, (6) quantify the effects of biological control agents on food webs, and (7) develop biological based integrated weed management strategies that are efficient, economical, and environmentally sound. Many of the biological control agents that are developed by the IPRL were discovered by scientists at the ARS Australian Biological Control Laboratory in Brisbane or the Foundation for the Study of Invasive Species (FUEDEI) near Buenos Aires. Landscape level weed suppression programs that maximize biological control agents are designed in close cooperation with client groups like the South Florida Water Management District, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service, the National Fish and Wildlife Service, the Nature Conservancy, and many others.

U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service
(\$TBD*)

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical assistance on a voluntary basis to private landowners and operators, tribes, and others for the planning of conservation practices and installation of needed conservation management systems with the goal of achieving natural resource sustainability. This includes the design, layout, and consultation services associated with the conservation practice application or management guidance provided. Technical assistance is targeted towards nutrient management, water quality, and water conservation concerns associated with animal feeding, livestock grazing operations, and fruit and crop production within the South Florida Ecosystem. Financial assistance is provided through a variety of USDA Farm Bill Programs.

The NRCS provides assistance to livestock and dairy producers to apply BMPs, including waste management systems, to reduce off farm nutrient discharges. A special effort in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) and C-139 basin is in place to assist the land user to meet requirements outlined in the 1994 Everglades Forever Act (EFA) to reduce phosphorus loading into the Everglades Protection Area. Other areas of assistance are provided on private and tribal lands to restore wetlands, improve wildlife habitat, and control invasive exotic plant species. Financial assistance is provided through a variety of USDA Farm Bill Programs.

Agricultural Act of 2014

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers who face threats to soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Through EQIP, the NRCS develops contracts with agricultural producers to implement conservation practices to address environmental natural resource problems. Payments are made to producers once conservation practices are completed according to NRCS requirements on agricultural lands that will improve or maintain the health of natural resources in the area including water quality.

Wetlands Reserve Program

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners and tribes to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring eligible land from agriculture. The NRCS goal is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program. This program offers landowners an opportunity to establish long-term conservation and wildlife practices and wetland protection.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. Under the Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) component, NRCS helps Indian tribes, state and local governments and non-governmental organizations protect working agricultural lands and limit

non-agricultural uses of the land. Under the Wetlands Reserve Easements (WRE) component, NRCS helps to restore, protect and enhance enrolled wetlands.

* FY2016 program funding is pending national approval of annual allocations to States. The table will be updated as appropriate when data is available. Final funding amounts may be available by Fall 2015.

U.S. Department of Commerce - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (\$307,242)

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) provides science, monitoring, and modeling projects critical to implementing and assessing the CERP and other parts of the South Florida Ecosystem restoration effort. NOAA projects are providing pre-implementation and early implementation information critical in evaluating the downstream impacts of restoration activities on coastal resources. This information allows project managers to make adjustments, if necessary, through the adaptive management process. NOAA scientists and resource managers, including those from the National Marine Sanctuary Program, participate in various management and science coordination activities related to South Florida Ecosystem restoration. While many NOAA programs support restoration efforts, the following NOAA projects directly support CERP implementation.

Interdisciplinary Coastal Oceanographic Observations / Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

Almost all of the replumbing and inland restoration efforts will ultimately affect the flow of water, nutrients, and other elements to coastal bays and estuaries. Understanding the impacts of changes in surface water flows to coastal systems is critical in determining the overall success of restoration activities. Since the early 1990's scientists from NOAA's Atlantic Meteorological and Atmospheric Laboratory have been conducting interdisciplinary observations of south Florida coastal waters. In 2015, NOAA funds supported large-scale shipboard surveys conducted from the R/V Walton Smith. Large-scale surveys are planned for 2016 and will cover the waters of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Data collected will continue to improve the predictive capabilities and enhance the understanding of the south Florida coastal ecosystem and its connectivity to the Everglades, allowing NOAA to contribute to adaptive management of CERP and fulfill its responsibility to CERP.

Restoration Science and Assessment / National Marine Fisheries Service

The NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center, in collaboration with other agencies and entities, conducts monitoring and assessment projects to support CERP. In FY 2015, funding from NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service supported scientific activities to determine the impact of upstream restoration efforts and changing freshwater inflow on south Florida coastal systems. This fisheries research, which will continue in FY 2016, examines the impacts of changing freshwater runoff patterns on inshore and coastal habitats and associated fishery resources.

Biscayne Bay NOAA Habitat Blueprint Focus Area / National Marine Fisheries Service

In 2015, NOAA's Habitat Blueprint, a cross-NOAA initiative, selected the shallow subtropical ecosystem of Biscayne Bay as a Habitat Focus Area (HFA). NOAA's Habitat Blueprint initiative provides a forward looking framework for coordination with partner organizations to address

the growing challenges of coastal and marine habitat loss and degradation. NOAA Blueprint Habitat funds will be awarded in 2015 to non-federal partners to make progress toward a major goal of the initiative, improved understanding of the origin of algal blooms in the Bay to guide their prevention. Other goals of the Biscayne Bay HFA include promoting healthy nursery grounds for fisheries and protected species, supporting resilient communities, and building strong partnerships focused on a healthy bay. Through this program and existing programs, NOAA will continue to work with its partners in Biscayne Bay, including those in the CERP, to monitor water quality and fisheries in the Bay.

U.S. Department of the Interior - National Park Service (\$35,498,000)

Park Management (\$30,302,000)

Big Cypress National Preserve (\$6,835,000)

Fiscal Year 2016 funding will support area management activities promoting public use and resource protection through the implementation and interpretation of an extensive back-country off-road vehicle (ORV) trail system. The NPS will continue to support mandated programs such as the protection, inventory, and monitoring of ten threatened and endangered species (such as the Florida panther, Cape Sable sparrow, and Florida manatee) and a large hydrology program that includes restoration of sheet flow to Everglades NP and the Ten Thousand Islands. Additional mandated programs include special uses such as oil exploration/production, the largest recreational hunting wildlife management area in south Florida, implementation of the largest recreational ORV program in the 48 States, and 22 American Indian (Seminole, Miccosukee, and independent) sites on preserve lands. The preserve also supports the largest prescribed fire program in the NPS; visitor and resources protection of 728,000 acres of predominately backcountry areas; maintenance of 26 employee housing units, two major visitor support facilities, public utility systems, five primitive campgrounds, three developed campgrounds, and 66 miles of roads; and management of approximately 460 known archeological sites.

The natural resources management program will continue to collect baseline data in formats that are compatible with interagency regional hydrologic and community/species-based models, control non-native plants, protect threatened and endangered species, mitigate visitor impacts, and manage funds to support direct inventory/monitoring of resources and a geographic information system (GIS).

For more information, please see: <http://www.nps.gov/bicy/index.htm>

Biscayne National Park (\$4,291,000)

Fiscal Year 2016 funding will support the park's area management activities including: promoting public use and mitigation of public use; interpretation and education programs; protection of resources; and efforts to address impacts and threats associated with urban sprawl, increased urban freshwater use, four solid waste landfills, and a nuclear power facility. All of these threats are located along the park's western boundary and are "upstream" with respect to surface- and ground-water flow into the park.

The park performs other area management activities associated with the protection of the park's natural, cultural, and historic resources as well as maintenance of park facilities. The park protects 173,000 acres of resources that include Biscayne Bay, the largest living coral reef system in the NPS, eight known terrestrial cultural sites, 67 known submerged cultural sites, approximately 20 historic structures, and two national historic districts within a boundary that has unlimited access points. The park maintains three developed islands and two mainland sites that include six harbors/docking facilities, two campgrounds, six picnic areas, approximately ten miles of trails, six residences, an environmental education camp, and a major visitor center.

The park's natural resources management will continue to protect Biscayne Bay estuarine resources, coral reefs, seagrass beds, and hard bottom communities; monitor water quality; document and mitigate impacts due to visitor and commercial uses; control exotic vegetation; and monitor 17 federally threatened and endangered species. Special efforts are applied to prevent and restore extensive damage to seagrass beds and coral reefs from boat groundings. Extensive efforts are made to work with local, State, and Federal government agencies on development and impact issues.

For more information, please see: <http://www.nps.gov/bisc/index.htm>

Dry Tortugas National Park (\$1,911,000)

Funding in FY 2016 will support operations of this 65,000-acre marine and historical park located 70 miles west of Key West. Current funding will continue to support natural and cultural resource management, including a preservation and maintenance program for Fort Jefferson. The NPS will continue to document and recommend management strategies for submerged cultural resources. These efforts are supported by park staff, with overall technical direction provided by the NPS Submerged Cultural Resources Unit. Natural resource activities include continuation of park-funded science and monitoring to analyze the efficacy of the Dry Tortugas Research Natural Area, natural resource damage assessment and restoration, and monitoring of sea turtles. Natural resource activities are performed by Dry Tortugas NP natural resources staff, with technical and additional staff support provided by Everglades NP (South Florida Natural Resources Center).

For more information, please see: <http://www.nps.gov/drto/index.htm>

Everglades National Park (\$17,265,000)

Funding for Everglades NP in FY 2016 will support area management activities including operations, natural and cultural resource management, planning, maintenance, and ecosystem restoration. The park continues to attract significant national and international attention as a symbol of the effort to restore the Everglades and of the balance being sought in striving to secure south Florida's future. With over 1.5 million acres of fragile wilderness immediately adjacent to approximately six million people, and over one million visitors each year, Everglades NP has special challenges. The park has outreach programs to the local community and has traditionally sustained a large backcountry/wilderness operation.

The park operates major visitor use areas at Flamingo, Shark Valley, and Everglades City, and oversees three concessions operations. Infrastructure requires extensive short-term maintenance, as well as long-term upgrades. The park has 82 miles of surfaced roads, 160 miles of trails, two campgrounds, 48 backcountry campsites, and two fee collection stations.

The park remains one of the most ecologically complex parks in the nation and is unique in that it has an unprecedented four international treaty designations. It is home to approximately 750 native plant species, 61 of which are considered critically imperiled in south Florida, and hosts 39 species of orchids of which 12 species are critically imperiled. Over 360 species of birds have been found in the park. Florida Bay, making up about 40 percent of the Park area, is continuing to experience dramatic changes, including alterations between hypo- and hyper-salinity, increased turbidity, seagrass die-offs, and persistent and increasing spreads of algae blooms. Exotic plants have and are continuing to replace native plant communities in the park and adjacent natural areas. Exotic animals, particularly reptiles, have become a major natural resource management issue for the park.

For more information, please see: <http://www.nps.gov/ever/index.htm>

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (\$1,325,000)

Funding in FY 2016 will sustain the continued operations of the Department of the Interior's Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives (OERI). The OERI serves and supports the congressionally mandated responsibilities of the Department and the Secretary in the restoration of the south Florida Ecosystem. The OERI represents the office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks and serves as the liaison for the Office of the Secretary by coordinating departmental and bureau Everglades restoration activities. The OERI also provides executive level leadership and staff level support to the Office of the Secretary in its role as Chair of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (SFERTF). In this capacity the OERI works closely with SFERTF member agencies and representatives and administers, manages, and supports the priorities, activities, meetings and the required reporting responsibilities of the SFERTF, the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Working Group, the Science Coordination Group, and the Biscayne Regional Restoration Coordination Team. The required reporting coordinated by the OERI includes the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Strategy and Biennial Report, the Integrated Financial Plan, the Plan for Coordinating Science and the Crosscut budget. In addition to the key Everglades restoration support activities described above in FY 2016 the OERI will also continue its designated lead role in coordinating the development of an invasive exotic species strategic action framework. OERI will continue enhancing the new evergladesrestoration.gov website which was launched with the USACE in November 2014. In FY 2016, OERI will be taking the lead on developing an interagency Everglades Restoration Communications Plan. This plan will help us communicate more succinctly, clearly and effectively with a range of key audiences including the executive and legislative branches of both the state and federal governments, stakeholders and the public.

The Department's OERI is responsible to serve as an important source of communication and information for a number of stakeholders and interested parties including but not limited to Congress, the Florida Legislature, the National Academy of Sciences, non-governmental organizations, and private citizens. The OERI has also been a leader in stakeholder engagement, integrating science and decision making, and conflict resolution.

Everglades Research - Critical Ecosystem Studies Initiative (\$3,871,000)

Since its inception in 1997, the Critical Ecosystem Studies Initiative (CESI) has been the primary investment by DOI to provide scientific information to advise restoration decision-making and to guide its own land management responsibilities for south Florida Ecosystem restoration.

The CESI planned activities for FY 2016 include:

- An emphasis on critical long-term hydrologic and biological monitoring projects that support assessments of the effect of restoration projects on NPS resources. Ongoing projects on fish and macro-invertebrates, marsh water level and flow monitoring, threatened and endangered species, and vegetation communities most likely impacted by implementation of the ecosystem restoration projects would continue.
- Integration of information from a science workshop carried out in FY 2014 to fill gaps in the monitoring and assessment program that tracks the effects of the Modified Water Deliveries project and C111 South Dade Project on Everglades NP resources.
- Continuation of support to the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force and the Department's oversight of the Everglades Restoration Initiative.
- Continuation of work on biological and hydrologic databases, including analysis of existing long-term hydrologic and biological data sets that will allow resource managers, decision-makers, and the public to understand the trends in Everglades NP resources as they relate to water management changes and climate variation.
- Continued support to hydrologic and ecological modeling and synthesis of ecological information and ecosystem services that the DOI would use during detailed planning for the CEPP and in design of water operations plans.
- Increased support of science on the effects of exotic invasive species on the natural resources of Everglades NP, Big Cypress National Preserve and Biscayne NP, and on the development of methods of detection, suppression, and control of invasive species.
- Continued support of science on the endangered Cape Sable seaside sparrow, to enhance the ability to manage this species during the next decade as water inflows to Everglades NP are redistributed.
- Increased support for science on the potential effects of climate change and sea level rise, as these factors affect coastal resources and interact with plans for Everglades restoration.
- Continuation of water quality monitoring and water quality analyses in Everglades NP and Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.

For more information, please see: <http://www.nps.gov/ever/naturescience/cesi.htm>

Construction (\$0)

Tamiami Trail Bridging (\$0)

Reestablishment of more natural and increased water flow to Everglades NP is a key requirement for Everglades restoration and additional bridging of the Tamiami Trail is necessary to accomplish restoration as the current roadway still continues to limit water flow. In FY 2014, Congress provided \$7.5 million for the highest priority component of the Tamiami Trail Next Steps project, the construction of a 2.6 mile bridge and associated road raising. The proposed project is located at the deepest portion of Shark River Slough, the section of the River of Grass that historically carried the largest volume of water into Everglades NP. The State of Florida has committed to match Federal funds for this project, up to \$90.0 million.

The entire cost for this project is currently estimated at \$143.9 million. To date, \$30.0 million of the Federal match has been identified; including a \$20.0 million Federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant awarded to the State in 2014, \$7.5 million appropriated to the NPS Construction in 2014 (noted above), and \$2.5 million from the Highway Trust Fund mandatory funding allocation to the NPS' Federal Lands Transportation Program in 2015. For FY 2016 and out-years, the Highway Trust Fund has been identified as the primary source of Federal funding for this project. The current authorization, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), has received a short term extension and expires in May 2015. As part of the Administration's Highway Trust Fund reauthorization process, the Administration is proposing the creation of a Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects Program (NSFLTP), which will provide needed construction or reconstruction of large, nationally-significant transportation infrastructure within or accessing Federal or tribal lands. Tamiami Trail bridging is an example of a project that will be eligible for these funds if the NSFLTP is authorized by Congress. If the transportation reauthorization process is not accomplished by the beginning of FY 2016 and the current MAP-21 authority is extended for another year, the NPS plans to defer other priority projects in the Southeast Region to fund its remaining commitment to the Tamiami Trail project out of the current NPS allocation over a period of several years.

Land Acquisition (\$670,000)

Land Acquisition Management (\$670,000)

Funding in FY 2016 will administer the Federal land acquisition program in south Florida to enable completion of land acquisition and to meet the schedule established by DOI.

U.S. Department of the Interior: Fish and Wildlife Service (\$12,077,000)

Resource Management (\$7,486,000)

Ecological Services (\$2,718,000)

These funds will allow the FWS to continue coordination, technical assistance, and partnering efforts with the NPS, the USGS, tribal governments, State agencies, and private organizations involved in the restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem. The funds for FY 2016 will also enable the FWS to continue implementing the Multi-Species Recovery Plan, which provides a blueprint for protecting, conserving, and managing the threatened and endangered fish and wildlife resources. The FWS is undertaking comprehensive habitat based strategies for restoration and recovery of species. Examples of this include the establishment of panther conservation banks and multi-species management plans.

The FWS will continue consulting with and providing technical assistance to the Corps, the NPS, and other Federal agencies relative to those agency activities that potentially affect federally listed species. The FWS continues its historically active role in reviewing applications for impacts on wetlands under the Corps' regulatory program. In addition to the analysis of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts, the FWS ensures that private development proposals are compatible with the CERP. The planning and building of several CERP components requires careful review of applications by the local sponsor, mainly the SFWMD, through the Corps' regulatory process. In FY 2016, the FWS will continue consultation with the Corps on the CERP, as well as other ongoing or new Federal projects. Further, the FWS will evaluate the potential need to list additional species

pursuant to the ESA, and develop cooperative agreements with landowners for the protection and conservation of listed species through Candidate Conservation Agreements, Safe Harbor Agreements, and Habitat Conservation Plans.

Also included in this program category, the South Florida Coastal Habitat Restoration Program actively forms partnerships with other Federal and State agencies, local governments, non-governmental entities, and private property owners to implement on-the-ground restoration projects as well as to conduct research, monitoring, and public outreach activities. The Coastal Program complements the larger, more comprehensive South Florida Ecosystem restoration initiative by implementing immediate on-the-ground actions designed to protect, conserve, and restore coastal living resources. For the past several years, the importance of on-the-ground restorative actions has been reflected by the distribution of half of the Coastal Program's budget toward actual habitat restoration.

In FY 2016, the FWS will address new Corps project starts and continue to be actively involved in threatened and endangered species consultation and recovery, private land partnerships, environmental contaminant reviews, coastal restoration projects, preparation of Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Reports, system-wide water quality improvement, and myriad multi-agency planning, science, and outreach efforts. The FWS will ensure that ecosystem benefits are maximized consistent with Everglades restoration goals. The role of the FWS will support and advance adaptive management and the principal goals of Everglades restoration.

Refuges and Wildlife (\$4,016,000)

The FWS administers 16 national wildlife refuge units in south Florida, as well as the new Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area in south-central Florida. The Service manages all actions under the ESA, provides comments on comprehensive wetland programs (including permitting), carries out authorities of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, and enforces Federal wildlife laws. As a member of the Working Group, the FWS will continue to undertake important on-the-ground restoration activities.

Migratory Birds (\$92,000)

While coordinating with the Service's South Florida Ecological Services Field Office and the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, the Division of Migratory Birds works cooperatively with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the SFWMD to provide technical expertise relative to MBTA implications on the various CERP projects, especially for avian protection plans and management of invasive exotics species such as the purple swamp hen. Effective implementation of the CERP with the above partners, the Corps, the NPS, and others is critical to restoring water quantity, quality, timing, and distribution for the benefit of people, migratory birds, and other wildlife and their habitats.

Law Enforcement (\$568,000)

Funding will be used to enhance law enforcement's ability to handle the quickly escalating regional workload. There has been a marked increase in the illegal trafficking of exotic protected species and the unlawful "taking" of endemic species protected by the ESA and the MBTA throughout south Florida. Southwest Florida is one of the most ecologically sensitive and rapidly growing areas of the State, requiring the highest priority for establishing an increased law enforcement presence. Funding will allow the purchase of vehicles, boats, and

marine equipment needed by law enforcement personnel to conduct investigations in remote areas. Additional personnel will be detailed to “task force” enforcement operations within the ecosystem as needed. Increased efforts to educate the public regarding the law and illegal activities will be emphasized.

Fisheries (\$92,000)

Efforts will be directed toward restoration of anadromous and coastal fish species in south Florida. Emphasis will be placed on ensuring that non-indigenous fish species are adequately evaluated for potential effects on restoration activities.

Land Acquisition (\$4,591,000)

Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area (\$4,591,000)

The FWS plans to acquire 1,836 acres at the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area to protect, restore, and conserve habitat for 278 Federal and State listed species, including Florida panther, Florida black bear, Audubon’s crested caracara, Florida scrub jay, Florida grasshopper sparrow, red-cockaded woodpecker, whooping crane, and Everglades snail kite. This acquisition would protect, restore, and conserve the headwaters, groundwater recharge and watershed of the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, and Lake Okeechobee region, and would also directly improve water quantity and quality in the Everglades watershed, complementing the CERP goals and protecting the water supply for millions of people. The FWS has an additional request of \$3.0 million in mandatory Land and Water Conservation Funds to acquire 1,200 acres. This acquisition would help protect a large landscape of diverse and high quality habitats, including habitat for the federally listed endangered Florida grasshopper sparrow and further enhance the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area’s ability to protect, restore, and conserve vital habitat for native plants and animals.

For more information, please see: <http://www.fws.gov/evergladesheadwaters/>

U.S. Department of the Interior – U.S. Geological Survey (\$7,525,000)

Greater Everglades Restoration – Integrating Research, Planning, and Interagency Coordination (\$7,525,000)

Funding in FY 2016 will support Greater Everglades research to provide research, modeling, monitoring, and interagency coordination efforts needed for Everglades restoration in accordance with the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding among the USGS, the FWS, and the NPS. This coordinated science effort allows the Interior bureaus to leverage resources, maximize the value of Federal research funds, and ensure that the best available research, modeling, and monitoring products and assessment tools are developed to meet the priority needs in the Everglades. DOI’s Everglades science plan continues to serve as the template upon which to define and prioritize studies to address critical decision-related information needs. DOI’s Greater Everglades Science Team used the science plan coupled with near-term plans for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), the Modified Water Deliveries (MWD) project, and other restoration activities as well as other emerging issues (e.g., sea level rise, climate change, and invasive species) to generate a priority list of research, monitoring, and modeling

studies needed to address immediate and near-term decision-related information needs. The USGS, in partnership with the FWS, the NPS, and other restoration partners, is continuing to prioritize its research to support, conduct, and disseminate timely and relevant decision-critical science.

The USGS activities provide a fundamental understanding of Everglades ecosystem process, structure, and function. A significant part of USGS activities is to integrate the ecosystem science through continued development and improvement of integrative models, including hydrologic models, ecological models, and geographic and landscape models. These ecosystem models are being integrated into decision support tools to aid in restoration-related planning decisions by the FWS, the NPS, the Corps, the FDEP, the EPA, and the SFWMD to predict the consequences of varied management alternatives, set ecological goals by providing yardsticks to measure the success of the restoration, and manage the natural resources of the system. In support of the DOI science plan and in constant communication and collaboration with agency partners, the USGS will continue high-priority work that includes long-term hydrologic monitoring, coastal salinity monitoring, continued development and enhancement of ecological models including models for adaptive assessment, and research that addresses new and rapidly emerging resource management needs. These tools will continue to be used in planning and implementing the CERP (including CEPP), the MWD, and other Everglades restoration projects. A continuing priority is to make all ecological models an integral part of the decision support tools available to restoration practitioners. USGS scientists work with all modelers in our partner agencies to insure the best integration of USGS models and modeling products.

The USGS will continue to evaluate sea-level rise data within the context of projected future freshwater flows and accelerated sea-level rise. This information will better refine the target(s) for freshwater flows to coastal systems, and better understand the dynamics of the interaction of restoration with coastal change. Also, a USGS study on the paleoecology of freshwater marshes, specifically marl prairie marshes, is providing the FWS with information useful in their reevaluation of the current distribution of species within the context of both the historical and the projected future Everglades having more water than today's current Everglades. The USGS also is studying the ability of a restored Everglades to increase its capacity as a carbon sink.

South Florida is particularly vulnerable to the introduction and spread of invasive plants and animals and is home to a wide variety of exotic species such as water hyacinth, melaleuca, old world climbing fern and the Burmese python. The enacted 2015 funding total for USGS reflects a \$1.0 million increase to support high priority research needs identified by the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force through its recently completed Invasive Exotic Species Strategic Action Framework (<http://www.evergladesrestoration.gov/content/ies/ies.html>). This Task Force-led process occurred over 1.5 years with participation from federal, state, and local governments, tribes, NGOs, academia, and private citizens, and identified Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) as the best way to stop invasive species early in their invasion process. They also identified the need for a risk assessment framework to help natural resource

managers decide how to allocate limited resources in the face of new invasive threats. The USGS research will address priorities established by the working group. Research will focus on aspects of EDDR such as improving detection of rare species using techniques such as environmental DNA (eDNA), developing and assessing screening tools to identify potentially invasive species, and filling key biological and ecological information gaps to better predict potential ranges and impacts of invasive species.

U.S. Department of the Interior - Bureau of Indian Affairs (\$390,000)

In FY 2016, funds will be used for continuing efforts to restore the South Florida Ecosystem for the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes. This funding (\$195,000 each) is included within each Tribe's base funding and is provided to support research, studies, and planning on water quality and distribution systems, ecosystem development and management, and planning for compliance with the ESA in stormwater areas on the Seminole and Big Cypress reservations.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (\$1,340,000)

The EPA priorities for restoring and protecting the South Florida Ecosystem in FY 2016 include continuing to work with the Corps and the State of Florida to implement the CERP via the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Clean Water Act (CWA) program areas; work with the State of Florida and federal agencies to implement appropriate phosphorus control programs that will attain water quality standards within the South Florida Ecosystem; prepare and finalize a final report of the Everglades Ecosystem Assessment Program utilizing a probability design to assess the health of the Everglades' effectiveness of ecosystem restoration efforts; supporting development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Lake Okeechobee watershed; assisting the State of Florida and the SFWMD in evaluating the appropriateness of aquifer storage and recovery technology as a key element of the restoration strategy for south Florida; updating and implementing the South Florida Wetlands Conservation Strategy to include protecting and restoring critical wetland habitats in the face of tremendous growth and development pressures; continuing to implement the comprehensive monitoring program (water quality, coral reef, and seagrass), special studies, data management, and public education components of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Protection Program as required by the National Marine Sanctuaries Program Amendments Act of 1992; and protecting coral reef ecosystems of southeast Florida by reducing land-based sources of pollution on a watershed scale, including controlling discharges from point sources.

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Section 3.0

State of Florida Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Projects and Funding

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Section 3.1: State of Florida Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Projects and Funding (\$138,909,037)

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (\$90,000,000)

The implementation of the CERP, in partnership with the SFWMD, tribes, other state, federal, and local agencies, and environmental groups, is a high priority for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

The FDEP administers the Save Our Everglades Trust Fund (SOETF) which is used to pay for a portion of the State's share of CERP. The SOETF also funds the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP), and the Restoration Strategies Regional Water Quality Plan which will be discussed further in section 3.2. Governor Scott's FY 2015-2016 budget proposes \$122,000,000 from the SOETF. Of these funds, \$90,000,000 would be distributed through the FDEP to the SFWMD for the design, engineering, and construction of various CERP restoration projects.

The FDEP CERP related efforts include the following:

- Office of Ecosystem Projects
 - The Office of Ecosystem Projects (OEP) oversees implementation of CERP restoration projects. Tasks include policy, regulatory, planning, program coordination, technical and engineering support, and coordination with other Department staff regarding issues related to CERP and Non-CERP restoration. Projects funded through SOETF during FY 2015/2016 include C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir, C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment, and the Picayune Strand Restoration project.
- Southeast District
 - Tasks include waste cleanup reviews on lands acquired for restoration projects.
- South District in Fort Myers
 - Tasks include planning, project management, waste cleanup reviews, biological and technical support.
- Waste Management in Tallahassee, Ft. Myers, and West Palm Beach
 - Tasks include technical support and review of potential impacts from residual agrochemicals on lands acquired for restoration projects.
- Division of Environmental Assessment & Restoration
 - Watershed Monitoring Section (Sediment Guidelines Modification Study, CERP Water Quality Studies)

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) (\$2,151,735)

The FWC contributes to CERP projects by providing technical assistance to the sponsoring agencies in order to ensure that CERP activities address the needs of fish and wildlife and their associated habitats. In FY 2012/2013, the agency organized an inter-divisional team to prioritize and coordinate the agency's contributions to all inter-agency ecosystem restoration activities in south Florida including the CERP. The Office of Conservation Planning Services facilitates official consultations for the CERP through various processes including inter-agency planning teams, the Coastal Zone Management Program, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, and NEPA.

South Florida Water Management District (\$46,757,302)

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is the local sponsor for the majority of the over 50 projects included in the CERP. Planning, design, and construction are currently underway on many of these projects. In particular, the Indian River Lagoon South C-44 Reservoir and STA Projects and Picayune Strand Restoration Project are currently under construction.

The SFWMD has completed construction of the C-44 Communication Tower and has executed contracts for the C-44 Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) and System Discharge. Construction of these components is currently underway and expected to be completed in August 2017. Additionally, the SFWMD will award a contract for the construction of the reservoir Pump Station in March 2015. Construction of the C-44 Reservoir is currently being solicited by the USACE.

The SFWMD has completed design and will initiate construction in the spring on the Manatee Mitigation Feature of the Picayune Strand Restoration Project. In addition, the SFWMD has initiated field work and design for the Southwestern Protection feature. The Operational, Testing and Monitoring Period for the Merritt Pump Station is underway, scheduled for completion in September 2015. The Faka Union and Miller Pump Stations are currently under construction by the USACE and acquisition in the Belle Meade area has been initiated.

The Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) has focused on developing the next phase of CERP projects under a national pilot project program in the USACE streamlined planning process. The CEPP PIR was completed and the Chief of Engineers Report was signed in December 2014. The project now awaits Congressional authorization.

In addition to the projects listed above, the SFWMD partners with the USACE on several other projects. The Melaleuca Mass Rearing Annex project to raise biological control agents to aid in the eradication of exotic plant species in the Everglades was the first CERP project transferred into the OMRRR phase under the 50/50 cost share agreement between the USACE and the SFWMD. The C-111 West Spreader Canal, Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands, Broward County Water Preserve Areas and C-43 Reservoir Projects are in different stages of construction. Status of these projects can be found at www.sfwmd.gov/restorationprogress. The SFWMD and USACE initiated planning for The Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project in December 2014.

Section 3.2: State of Florida Non-CERP Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Projects and Funding (\$566,909,051)

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (\$5,000,000)

The FDACS, through its Office of Agriculture Water Policy, addresses water issues relating to agriculture and ecosystem restoration. The FDACS is responsible for addressing agriculture non-point source water pollution and for implementing TMDLs in water bodies and segments statewide. Lake Okeechobee is the first recipient of a TMDL in Florida and the FDACS has implemented a program in the Lake's basin to deal with agriculture non-point sources. The FDACS also plays an important role in the management of public lands through the Florida Forest Service (formerly the Division of Forestry). The Florida Forest Service is the lead managing agency on the Picayune State Forest (Southern Golden Gate Estates and Belle Meade) and is the state agency responsible for wildfire suppression and prevention and forest protection in south Florida.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (\$66,000,000)

The FDEP's non-CERP South Florida Ecosystem restoration priorities include implementation of the Everglades Forever Act and Restoration Strategies Regional Water Quality Plan, the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP), Kissimmee River Restoration, and the C-111 South Dade project (<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/everglades/>). Governor Scott's FY 2015-2016 budget proposes \$46 million of the SOETF appropriation to fund these programs. Funds will be used for the design, engineering, and construction of Northern Everglades and Estuaries Program projects, water quality enhancement projects identified in the state's Long-Term Plan for Achieving Water Quality Goals in the Everglades Protection Area (Long-Term Plan), and the Lake Okeechobee Basin Management Action Plan. Governor Scott's FY 2015-2016 budget also proposes \$20 million for the FDEP's Office of Water Policy for Kissimmee River land acquisition.

In addition, the FDEP implements water quality improvement programs for the Clean Water Act Section 303d listed water bodies; ecosystem restoration project management; watershed planning and coordination activities; basin management action plans (BMAPs), and research and monitoring (<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/watersheds/bmap.htm>). The FDEP Florida Coastal Office (FCO) manages more than 4 million acres of submerged lands and coastal uplands in Florida. With support from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, FCO manages 41 aquatic preserves, three National Estuarine Research reserves, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and the Coral Reef Conservation Program (<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/fco.htm>).

The FDEP's budget provides funding for the following activities in south Florida:

- Office Of Ecosystem Projects
 - Restoration Strategies Regional Water Quality Plan
 - Kissimmee River Restoration
 - C-111 South Dade
 - Dispersed Water Management

- Agricultural non-point source controls in the Okeechobee, Caloosahatchee, and St. Lucie River watersheds
- Office Of Water Policy
 - Kissimmee River Land Acquisition (for state FY 15/16)
- Division of Environmental Assessment & Restoration, Florida Coastal Office, Southeast & South District Offices:
 - TMDL and BMAP development, water quality sampling, and technical support
 - South Florida Canal Study)
 - Mercury Research and Monitoring
 - Aquatic Ecology and Quality Assurance Assistance and Reviews
 - Water Quality Assessment Program Grant reviews for restoration projects
 - Water Quality related issues associated with the Everglades
- Florida Coastal Office :
 - National Estuarine Research Reserve
 - Coral Reef Conservation Program
 - Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
 - Aquatic Preserves Program

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) (\$50,832,728)

The FWC embodies the state's executive responsibility for managing Florida's freshwater, marine, and terrestrial fish and wildlife. In order to meet its mission, the agency contributes to South Florida Ecosystem restoration and conservation both operationally and through partnerships.

Operations: Four of the agency's divisions manage fish and wildlife resources (Divisions of Freshwater Fisheries Management, Habitat and Species Conservation, Hunting and Game Management, and Marine Fisheries Management), while the Division of Law Enforcement ensures that laws protecting fish, wildlife, and their habitats are enforced. The Fish and Wildlife Research Institute administers the research and monitoring programs that support the FWC's mission. A significant contribution in this regard are the GIS-based species habitat models that are used to identify those lands that need to be conserved in support of imperiled species management plans. FWC programs support non-native species research and management, invasive plant management, Florida panther restoration research, and alligator management throughout the Everglades Ecosystem.

The FWC is either sole manager or a partnering manager on over one million acres of public lands throughout the region. Further, the FWC contributes to state land acquisition programs through its Inholdings and Additions program, targeting lands within or contiguous to areas currently managed by the FWC. Lastly, the FWC administers an on-going lake enhancement and restoration program.

Partnerships and Outreach: The FWC partners with the FWS, NRCS, and FDACS to provide both technical assistance and grant support to those private landowners wishing to sustain fish and wildlife habitat on their properties in addition to other outreach activities.

The FWC's planned funding for South Florida Ecosystem restoration during FY 2015/2016 includes:

- Law Enforcement (\$23,030,283)
- Division of Freshwater Fisheries (\$375,000)
- Florida Wildlife Research Institute (\$215,000)
- Division of Habitat and Species Conservation (\$27,212,445)

Florida Department of Transportation (\$ 15,601,425)

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is a leader among transportation agencies in the nation for protecting wildlife and redesigning roadways to restore natural water flow to over-drained areas. The FDOT is also a leader in providing funding and technical assistance to plan and implement greenways and trails. Many of these programs have been implemented in south Florida, particularly the Big Cypress Swamp (Interstate 75/ Alligator Alley), Tamiami Trail, U.S. 1 to the Florida Keys, and SR 786/PGA Boulevard. The FDOT also funds wildlife and habitat mitigation efforts ranging from seagrass restoration in the Indian River Lagoon and sea turtle lighting along the southeast coast to the purchase of Florida panther habitat in southwest Florida.

The FDOT's expenditures for South Florida Ecosystem restoration during FY 2014/15 was \$17,656,798 and includes:

- Exotic and endangered/threatened plant survey (\$113,468)
- Research to determine the effectiveness of wildlife crossings (\$143,720)
- Mitigation maintenance and monitoring (\$154,974)
- Removal of exotic vegetation (\$19,888)
- Wildlife and wetland mitigation (\$16,154,252)
- Seagrass and mangrove mitigation (\$1,070,496)

The FDOT's planned funding for South Florida Ecosystem restoration during FY 2015/16 is \$15,601,425 and includes:

- Exotic and endangered/threatened plant survey (\$127,874)
- Research to determine the effectiveness of wildlife crossings (\$3,823,400)
- Mitigation maintenance and monitoring (\$224,781)
- Removal of exotic vegetation (\$20,000)
- Wildlife and wetland mitigation (\$7,486,110)
- Seagrass and mangrove mitigation (\$3,259,260)

South Florida Water Management District (\$429,474,898)

The SFWMD is implementing the Long-Term Plan including the structural and vegetation enhancements to the existing STAs, BMPs, and integration with CERP projects. The STAs treated approximately 1.3 million acre-feet of water and recorded another excellent annual performance, retaining 81% of phosphorus from water flowing through the treatment cells and treating water to a flow-weighted mean concentration of 21 parts per billion of phosphorus. During the year, the STAs removed nearly 147 metric tons of phosphorus. Operation of Compartments B and C STA expansion areas (11,500 acres) were continued to help improve STA treatment performance. BMPs in the Everglades Agricultural Area produced a 180 metric ton (63%) reduction in phosphorus exceeding the 25% statutory requirement. For the fifth consecutive year, BMPs in the C-139 Basin complied with the requirement of maintaining historic phosphorus loads. Additionally, the SFWMD works closely with the FDEP and other state, federal, and tribal governments on other non-CERP programs to restore and protect the South Florida Ecosystem. <http://www.sfwmd.gov/sta>

During the 2013 legislative session, the Restoration Strategies Regional Water Quality Plan dated April 27, 2012 was incorporated into the Everglades Forever Act as a modification to the Long-Term Plan. Since the EFA and NPDES permits and consent orders were issued for the program, in September 2012, eight projects have been initiated in Restoration Strategies and 17 major Consent Order milestones were met ahead of schedule. The SFWMD also completed the Restoration Strategies Regional Water Quality Plan: Science Plan for the Everglades Stormwater Treatment Areas to identify studies that investigate the critical factors that collectively influence ultralow treatment performance and phosphorus reduction in the STAs. The first nine Science Plan projects have been developed and are currently being implemented. <http://www.sfwmd.gov/restorationstrategies>

As part of an ongoing effort to maximize water storage in the greater Everglades system, the SFWMD is continuing to partner with agencies and private landowners to bolster the Dispersed Water Management Program. Holding water on public and private lands is one tool to help reduce the amount of water flowing into Lake Okeechobee and/or discharged to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries during times of high water conditions throughout South Florida. This year, the SFWMD has implemented and managed all eight Northern Everglades Payment for Environmental Services (NEPES) first solicitation projects, one second solicitation projects on ranchlands, and three Water Farming Payment for Environmental Services Pilot Solicitation Projects on fallow citrus lands. Since inception in 2005, the DWM Program totals 185,012 acre-feet of storage with 95,812 acre-feet added in FY 2014/2015. <http://www.sfwmd.gov/storage>

Restoration of the Northern and Southern Everglades is integral to the core mission of the SFWMD and several initiatives and construction projects are now underway to revitalize and protect the South Florida Ecosystem. The SFWMD's priority non-CERP South Florida Ecosystem restoration and protection projects for FY 2015/2016 include:

- Restoring the Kissimmee River and floodplain (in cooperation with the Corps) through construction, backfilling 22 miles of canal, recarving 9 miles of remnant river channel, rehydrating 25,000 acres of river floodplain, and a comprehensive ecological evaluation program. <http://www.sfwmd.gov/kissimmee>

- Implementing the C-111 South Dade Project which improves hydrologic conditions in Taylor Slough, its headwaters, the Rocky Glades and the eastern panhandle of ENP as well as to increases freshwater flows to northeast Florida Bay.
- Continuing implementation of the NEEPP and associated protection plans for the three northern watersheds (Lake Okeechobee, St. Lucie, and Caloosahatchee). <http://www.sfwmd.gov/northerneverglades>
- Continuing implementation of provisions in the EFA and Long-Term Plan including STA operation and optimization, regulation, managing invasive exotic and nuisance vegetation on SFWMD lands, and implementing cost-effective solutions to improve water quality treatment, reduce nutrient loads, and achieve water quality standards. <http://my.sfwmd.gov/portal/page/portal/xweb%20protecting%20and%20restoring/water%20quality%20stormwater%20treatment%20areas>
- Planning, design and construction of regional projects to meet state water quality standards through the Restoration Strategies Regional Plan. <http://my.sfwmd.gov/portal/page/portal/xweb%20protecting%20and%20restoring/restoration%20strategies>
- Updating and implementing regional water supply plans. <http://www.sfwmd.gov/portal/page/portal/xweb%20-%20release%203%20water%20supply/water%20supply%20planning>
- Continuing implementation of the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project to improve water levels in the Loxahatchee Slough and increase freshwater deliveries to the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River to meet restoration flow targets. <http://www.sfwmd.gov/coastal>
- Implementing the design and construction of Caloosahatchee Basin Storage/Treatment facilities that will provide near-term storage and/or treatment within the Caloosahatchee Basin.
- Re-evaluating the storage goals north of the Lake, with varying levels of storage south of the lake, to minimize damaging discharges to the estuaries, maintain the lake within ecologically desirable range, and send water south for restoration, including identifying sub-watershed storage goals and the best tools to accomplish these goals (suitability analysis and cost effectiveness analysis).
- Operating and maintaining one of the largest flood control systems in the world that includes over 600 structures, 625 project culverts, 70 pump stations, approximately 2,100 miles of canals and 2,000 miles of levees, moving more than 20 million acre-feet (5.5 trillion gallons) of water through the system annually.

The Florida Legislature also requires the SFWMD to: manage water and related land resources; promote conservation, development, and use of surface and groundwater for reasonable

beneficial uses; manage dams, impoundments, and other "Works of the District" to provide water storage; prevent flood and soil erosion damage; maintain navigable rivers and harbors; and promote outdoor recreation on publicly owned lands.

In addition to ecosystem restoration projects, the SFWMD expends a significant amount of staff time and contract dollars toward implementation of restoration program support activities such as land management, control of invasive exotic plants and animals, environmental resource permitting, and intergovernmental coordination.

Section 4.0

Agency Contacts

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The following individuals are designated as points of contacts concerning their agency information as provided in the Cross Cut Budget 2015 Working Document.

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